

PATENT  
Docket No. 223002010004

O P C JC109  
JUL 21 2001  
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Laura Shires

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4/17/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

In the application of:

Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Serial No.: 09/884,455

Filing Date: June 18, 2001

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: To Be Assigned

JUL 3 1 2001

Group Art Unit: 1652

TECH CENTER 1600/290

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits in the subject application, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

**AMENDMENTS**

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-26.

Please add new claims 27-36.

27. (New) A composition comprising a purified proteolytic hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide wherein said HCV polypeptide comprises an HCV NS3 domain protease or an active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog.